

# JOHN SEBELIUS

ART & DESIGN

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My work addresses individuals and groups that are overlooked; people whose stories deserve an audience. I grew up in a politically active environment. I was raised in a household that celebrated diverse communities and people. This type of upbringing has helped me to be open to humankind and has pushed me to investigate individuals who remain unseen. As a visual artist I investigate the legacy of service to America in a unique way—by finding those who go unnoticed and giving them a voice through my art. In this way, I carry on a family tradition but in personal way.

The direction of my current work is an ever-evolving practice. There is great physicality to my paintings that are only created through a constant reworking process. Continually building up layers of ground and physically removing them allows me the ability to connect with my subjects and materials on a physical and personal level. By scraping oil paint and embedding it with drawing, I hope to create a descriptive surface that can hold disparate images within a unified field. My works use elegance and economy of line as a metaphor to show my respect for the people whose portraits I draw. My most recent work has introduced color that is used to create a dingy and worn patina over which I incise imagery pertinent to my subject's interests and lives. Memories and dreams surrounding certain individuals and images continue to serve as inspiration for the paintings.

The filmmaking process has brought a heartbeat to my art making that has never before existed. This medium grants me the ability to effortlessly capture the rawness of human emotion and the captivating oral tradition of storytelling. My most recent work has begun to experiment with the manipulation of the moving image and the psychology of crowd dynamics. I'm intrigued by the idea of being part of a population and invisible all at once. I focus heavily on societal implications of behavior and if being part of a crowd absolves one of the same restrictions they may experience as an individual. My aim is for this work to be the catalyst needed for further research, art creation, and discussions pertaining to marginalized American communities.